

## EDITORIAL

### Omnivorous Roy

"The turtle makes no progress until he sticks his head out."

"Arrogant? Anybody who has an opinion and expresses it in print is arrogant!" (Roy's response to being called arrogant)

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*Ed - with my  
warmest regards  
V. B. Rothstein  
1983*



Photograph courtesy of Kathy Horton

Roy R. Snelling, an outstanding figure in Hymenoptera research, died suddenly last year at the age of 73, while in the field in East Africa. Even as we regret that he did not have a great many more years, it was a most appropriate way to end a very good run.

Roy was legendarily opinionated, crusty, cantankerous ... and unfailingly generous to younger scientists who shared his passion for stinging insects. Even as he held no academic appointment, or even a university degree, many colleagues of a younger generation were effectively his students. The editors of this Festschrift are among those many.

He was an omnivore – taking the sensible view that his many and varied field trips required a flexible adaptation to the local diet – and a life-long enthusiast of all aculeates. His extensive published work was mostly in systematics and faunistics, with significant incursions into ecology and nesting biology.

Roy would have scoffed at the idea of a Festschrift in his memory. No matter. It is right and proper that those who admired him and benefited from his counsel should have an opportunity to demonstrate our esteem and affection. And – even as he continued to grumble – he would certainly have been gratified by this number of the *Journal of Hymenoptera Research*. The response to our call for contributions surpassed even our generous expectations, so that there are too many to fit into a single journal issue. The overflow is left for the succeeding issue.

In these pages you will find a biographical sketch and bibliography (Longino and G. Snelling), contributions from some of Roy's many research collaborators (e.g. Davidson et al.; Duffield et al.) and others from those who did not publish with him but have good reason to appreciate his guidance (e.g. Feener; Ward). Chew it well.

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